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503.30414V16

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/552,572

Filed: April 19, 2000

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

Group: 3749

Examiner: S. Gravini

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 22, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find two U.S. patents for consideration by the Examiner upon further examination of the claims of the above-identified application. Also enclosed is a copy of a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed two U.S. patents.

The Petition Under 37 CFR 1.313(c) and the Request for Continued Examination, each filed concurrently herewith, in connection with the above-identified application, are noted. Upon granting of the Petition and subsequent granting of the Request, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is removed from "allowed" status and is subject to further examination under 37 CFR 1.112. In view thereof, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is now subject to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97(c). In view thereof, the following statement is

made by the undersigned under 37 CFR 1.97(e):

Upon information and belief by the undersigned, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Noting, for example, the date, for prior art purposes, of U.S. Patent No. 5,436,848, the filing of these two U.S. patents does not constitute an admission that the patents are prior art.

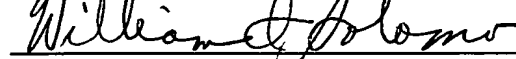
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the presently submitted patents. Accordingly, consideration of these patents, upon further examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit

Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V16) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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